

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system comprising  
a client component;  
5 a server component, said client component arranged to make requests to said server component;  
Sub A1 means maintaining a representation of requests which can be satisfied by said server;  
a request intercepting component, arranged to intercept requests from said client component to said server component, and to establish from said representation if a request is supported by the  
10 server; wherein  
said request intercepting component is arranged to search external sources to locate and provide to said server additional functionality if required for said server to support said request if said request is not supported;  
said request intercepting component thereafter passing the request on to said server to execute.

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20 2. A computer system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said client and server components comprise objects in one or more computer programs.

25 3. A computer system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said server component comprises an object represented in a dynamic link library file, and wherein said request intercepting component searches for said dynamic link library file, or an updated version of said dynamic link library file if a current version of said dynamic link library file held on said computer system does not provide the functionality of said server component.

4. A computer system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the client component comprises a software program, the server component comprises an operating system shell called by the software component, and the request intercepting component is a command interpreter.

5. A computer system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein computer system is a CORBA distributed system, wherein said client and server components are objects on said system and wherein said request intercepting component is in Object Request Broker.

5 6. A computer system comprising  
a client component;  
a server component, said client component arranged to make requests to said server component;

means including a representation of requests which can be satisfied by said server;

10 means for intercepting requests from said client component to said server component, and for establishing from said representation if a request is supported by the server; said intercepting means being arranged to search external sources to locate and provide to said server additional functionality required for said server to support said request if said request is not already supported; and for thereafter passing the request on to said server to execute.

15 7. A computer system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said client and server components comprise objects in one or more computer programs.

20 8. A computer system in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said server component comprises an object represented in a dynamic link library file, and wherein said request intercepting component searches for said dynamic link library file, or an updated version of said dynamic link library file if a current version of said dynamic link library file held on said computer system does not provide the functionality of said server component.

25 9. A computer system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein the client component comprises a software program, the server component comprises an operating system shell called by the software component, and the request intercepting component is a command interpreter.

10. A computer system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein computer system is a CORBA distributed system, wherein said client and server components are objects on said system and wherein said request intercepting component is in Object Request Broker.

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